



# The Maine Department of Transportation's

## Surface Water Quality Protection Program

### Program Description

The Surface Water Quality Protection Program (SWQPP) is a cooperative effort that joins local, state and federal resources to help keep Maine's rivers, lakes and coastal waters clean. The Maine Department of Transportation (MDOT) manages the SWQPP. This program is funded under the Transportation Enhancement Program of the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21), which is administered by the Federal Highway Administration. The funding applies to roads classified as State-aid minor collectors and higher State classifications, which are eligible for TEA-21 funding. The purpose of the program is (1) to identify surface water bodies (lakes, rivers, streams, estuaries, etc.) where water quality is being adversely impacted by runoff from these highways, (2) to select and prioritize candidate pollution elimination projects to fund, and (3) to manage the design, development and construction of projects selected for funding.

As a cooperative effort, we emphasize local participation in designing, constructing and maintaining our projects. Our project partners range from private citizens who volunteer their time to municipalities to quasi-governmental agencies.

Any person or entity is eligible to submit one or more candidate projects for consideration for funding. Nominations are received on a continuous basis by the SWQPP Coordinator, who assesses the scope of the project. After initial assessment, the nominations are passed onto a scoring committee made up of representatives from the MDOT, the Maine Department of Environmental Protection, and volunteer citizens. There is no deadline for applications to be considered, however an initial review will be completed as applications are received. Candidate projects will be screened, selected, and prioritized on a revolving schedule by the scoring committee. If selected for funding, the project is developed by MDOT in cooperation with the applicant and the Town. Design and construction is generally conducted by MDOT, unless otherwise specified and agreed to by MDOT.

### 14-Point Project Selection Criteria

- (1) Projects must correct surface water quality problems due to highway runoff from a State arterial (principal or minor), minor collector or major collector eligible for federal funding under TEA-21. Please contact Zach Henderson as listed below for questions on road eligibility;
- (2) Work funded by this Program cannot involve non-MDOT property unless it is essential to the elimination of MDOT highway runoff pollution;
- (3) Projects must consist of actions that would not normally be done as part of routine MDOT highway maintenance activities or construction projects;

- (4) Highest priority will be given to candidate projects located within MDEP Nonpoint source Priority Watersheds, within Atlantic Salmon Watersheds, and within the watersheds of Maine Section 303(d) Waters and Lakes Most at Risk from New Development and;
- (5) Candidate projects will be awarded preference points according to the host municipality's status within the Growth Management Program: highest priority will be awarded for a certified growth management program; high priority will be given for a consistent comprehensive plan and zoning ordinance; high priority will be given if the project area was identified as a priority concern within the comprehensive plan; and priority will be given to a municipality with a consistent adopted comprehensive plan;
- (6) High priority will be given to projects that can achieve the greatest water quality benefits at the least cost;
- (7) High priority will be given to projects that complement other surface water quality improvement projects, either planned or underway;
- (8) High priority will be given to projects which are actively supported by such groups as lake associations, conservation commissions, planning boards, soil and water conservation districts, etc.;
- (9) High priority will be given to projects having active participation by other interested parties to maximize use of public transportation funds;
- (10) High priority will be given to sites at which close highway proximity has created direct runoff as a result of improved access and/or increased activity to a water body;
- (11) Concurrence by municipalities for proposed projects is required and active support will greatly strengthen a candidate's chances of being selected for funding;
- (12) Should an improvement require maintenance beyond routine highway maintenance, a legally binding written agreement to do so by the municipality must be made in order for the project to be selected for funding;
- (13) Projects will be constructed by MDOT maintenance forces or contractors, or under municipal control, and;
- (14) In order to be eligible to construct projects selected for funding, private contractors must be fully insured and erosion control certified by MDEP unless the work is to be done as an addition to another MDOT construction project on which they will be or are already under contract.

Candidate project nominations should be sent to:

Zach Henderson, Hillier & Associates, Inc.,  
MDOT-ENV Water Resources Consultant  
SWQPP Coordinator  
Maine Department of Transportation  
State House Station 16  
Augusta, ME 04333-0016  
Tel. 207-624-3080 Fax 207-624-3101 TDD 207-287-3392  
zachary.henderson@maine.gov



**Maine Department of Transportation  
Surface Water Quality Protection Program  
Site Nomination Form**

**Section 1 - Applicant Information**

Applicant's Agency/Organization Name:

Contact Person:

Title:

Daytime Phone Number:

Fax Number:

Email address:

Mailing Address:

City:

State:

Zip:

**Section 2 - Project Information**

(1) Project location (please be specific, include map if necessary)

(2) Description of the problem (please attach any supporting documents such as watershed survey reports, photos, sketches, videos, etc.):

(3) Description of proposed project (please be specific):

### Section 3 - Selection Criteria

*NOTE: For help at any time, please contact SWQPP Coordinator at (207) 624-3080*

(1) Road Category:

☐ Principal Arterial

☐ Minor Arterial

☐ Major Urban Collector

☐ Minor Urban Collector

(2) Will this project involve property outside of the MDOT Right of Way?:

☐ YES

☐ NO

(3) Does the project encompass normal maintenance activities?:

☐ YES

☐ NO

(4) Watershed Category (check all that apply):

☐ MDEP NPS Priority Watershed

☐ Atlantic Salmon Watershed

☐ MDEP 303(d) Waterbodies in Non-attainment

☐ Public Drinking Water Supply

☐ MDEP Chapter 502 Watersheds Most at Risk  
from development

(5) Does the host municipality have a comprehensive plan?:

☐ YES

☐ NO

☐ IN PROCESS

If yes, check all that apply:

☐ Adopted by local governing body (council, selectmen, town meeting)

☐ Found consistent with the Comprehensive Planning and Land Use Regulation Act by the State Planning Office

☐ Includes goals or policies that relate to this application (please attach whole plan or appropriate excerpts)

(6) Estimated Cost:

\$

(7) Are there other current related projects or efforts within the watershed?:

☐ YES

☐ NO

If yes, please describe:

(8) Are there other organizations which support this project (lake associations, conservation commissions, planning boards, etc.)?:

☐ YES

☐ NO

If yes, please list organizations:

(9) Will the organizations listed in above be active participants in the project?:

☐ YES

☐ NO

If yes, please describe roles:

(10) Does the project result from improved access/activity the waterbody?:

☐ YES

☐ NO

(11) Does the municipality support this project?:

☐ YES (please attach letter of support)

☐ NO

(12) If necessary, will the municipality maintain any structural improvements incorporated into the project?:

☐ YES

☐ NO

☐ NOT APPLICABLE

For Coordinator's Use Only:

(13) ☐ M&O

☐ U&A

☐ LAP Force Account

☐ Bid

(14) ☐ Insured

☐ E&S Cert # \_\_\_\_\_